

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT

Pay to: (Name) Evan SilbermanDate: 4/23/10

THE OMEN

Please provide: Hampshire Student ID Number [REDACTED]Amount being paid: \$ 23.25

Be sure to indicate MEETING FOOD or EVENT FOOD where applicable.

Detailed explanation of payment:

Meeting Fd for the OmenSubie's - 23.252kg cheese pizza, beverage

- Forms with missing information will be returned to group mailbox
 - Original receipts MUST be attached
- Signers CANNOT authorize reimbursements for themselves

SIGNER AUTHORIZATIONSignature: _____ Print Name: Alex Wenchel Email: aww07Signature: _____ Print Name: Lindsay Barbieri Email: lkb06Student Group Name: The Omen Student Group Account Charged: [REDACTED]

Submit form and all supporting documentation to Campus Leadership & Activities (CLA)

Approved by: _____

Pam Tinto, Assistant Dean of Students

Date

FOR CLA USE ONLY

PR No: _____

PO No: _____

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Submit Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Friday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Fridays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu or Ian McEwen, Box 286.

Views in the Omen (5)

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The Omen Haiku

EDITORIAL

by Ian McEwen

Hello, Omen readers. If there are any of you left, that is. This has been a hard semester; I suspect this is true not only for me.

Incidentally, the stuff with The Omen has not been the primary reason for my stress. In fact, the primary reason is largely undetermined, but I suspect part of it is having started a long-distance relationship.

Not because of the relationship itself, natch. That's very nice. (Note: comments on my relationship should be made only by me, *kthxbai*, although as long as you aren't David Axel Kurtz I won't castrate you or anything).

I am stressed because now I have to fly on planes more.

"Oh no," you say, "he's going to go on a rant about the TSA, or legroom in planes, or some asshole who was too fat for the seat next to him. I won't bother reading this, it'll just be silly!"

The TSA is pretty shitty lately, legroom is bad but not terrible (and I'm tall, even; by all rights this should be my primary complaint), and I've had my share of overflowing neighbor-seats. However, these things pale in comparison to the true scourge of airplane travel:

Reclining seats.

Let it be known, Hampshire College Community,

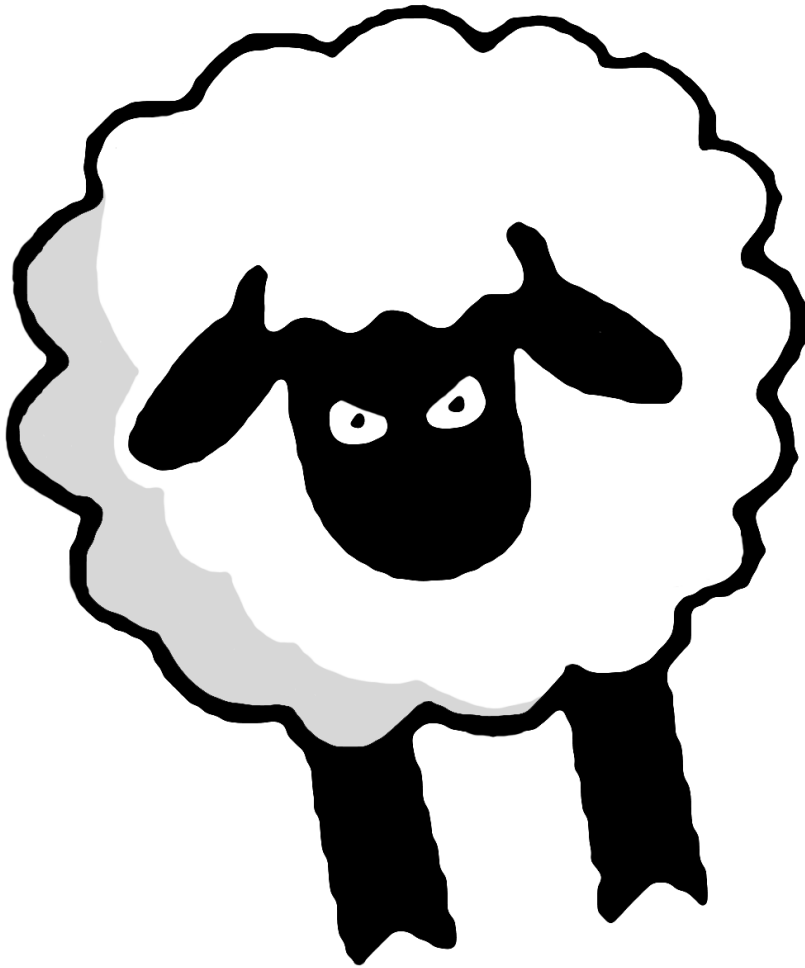
that there is nothing you can do that is more disrespectful of human life than recline your seat on an airplane. Because while legroom may be annoying, the space in front of one's face is substantially more vulnerable, and much easier to restrict in such a way that productive and comfortable use of time is impossible. Interestingly, increasing the amount of space in front of your

face when it is already at a comfortable and productiveness-permitting size, does little to nothing for comfort or productivity; comfort is enhanced mostly by the angle of one's back after the process, should the face be moving backwards without the butt joining it.

What this means is if you recline your seat on a plane, what you are saying is: "The very slight bit of comfort that I gain by leaning my seat back these three inches is more important than the comfort of the person behind me these several hours, as well as all the works they may have produced during that time, as well

as their comfort in the following hours when they recuperate from this plane journey, as well as any works they may have created during that time."

Hint: this is never true. Unless you're curing cancer or AIDS in a portable lab, therefore. Don't recline your seat. Or I will personally castrate you, David Axel Kurtz or not. The Omen Loves You!



**On the positioning of seats
(or: On the respect of other humans)**

SECTION

A Response by Zachary Perls

My name is Zachary Perls. I am a New Mexican with Latino and Jewish heritage, and I have been involved in various aspects of the anti-racism campaign at Hampshire College during my time here. I am currently in my last year here at Hampshire.

Today I found in my mail box a small sheet of pink paper, declaring,

“The Omen, Hampshire’s free speech publication, published an article entitled, ‘I HATE BLACK PEOPLE.....!!!!!!111.’ This is only one example from this semester of hate speech on this campus. How should the Hampshire community respond to racially prejudiced hate speech?”

At first I thought this was a joke. But As I read the contact information below, it began to dawn on me that these people were actually serious. And so, I felt I had to write a response to the people who wrote this note, to be published in the Omen.

To them, I have a simple question.

Did the people who wrote this note actually read the article?

This is a serious question. Was the article actually read, or just the title? Because if they had bothered to read the article itself, they would have discovered that,

1. The person writing the article is themselves Black
2. The criticism the author lays against her own people is clearly intended to spark a change, to restore a feeling of pride she feels her culture has lost
3. The author is clearly opposed to racism and at-

tempts to destroy the fallacies of stereotypes (particularly stereotypes of names and language use) Example? Calling out people who tell her she is “acting white” when she, as she puts it, “speaks properly”.

In no way can this article be considered “hate speech.”

However, I will still answer the question the little pink paper asks of me, “How should the Hampshire community respond to racially prejudiced hate speech?”

To that question, I answer, “it shouldn’t”

The Hampshire community should not respond to “racially prejudiced hate speech,” because Hampshire as an institution must promote free speech, even when that speech does not appeal to the community at large. Hampshire College is not and should not be in the business of “responding” to hate speech, so as to avoid being some kind of authoritarian determinant of what is and what is not okay today.

So to sum,

I respectfully suggest whoever wrote that little pink piece of paper in my mailbox should

1. Learn to read things carefully before commenting on them,
2. Realize that individual students of Hampshire College have the right to state whatever they wish and respond to statements however they wish, but that the College as a whole has no such right, and
3. Realize the difference between “Hate Speech” and constructive criticism of one’s own culture.

Thank you, and have a glorious day.



Much To Our Chagrin

... David Axel Kurtz sent something to our email. Enjoy, below:

Hello fellow Omen-sheeple:

If one of you doesn't upload the Div IV issue to Ham-pedia, or at least send me a pdf, I will be a sad sheep.

By which I mean, I WILL SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE OMEN EXPLAINING HOW I DO NOT CARE FOR THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

- *African-Americans
- *American-Africans
- *Afro-Americans
- *Ameraficans
- *Blacks
- *Not-Not-Whites
- *People of Color
- *People of No Color
- *People of Colour
- *People of The Colour From Outer Space
- *People of the MOON
- *Whites (ironic)
- *Pinks
- *Pinkos
- *Pink
- *Lady Gaga
- *Aristocrats
- *The High-Born
- *The Low-Born
- *The Starborn Ones
- *Smallfolk
- *Serfs
- *Serfers
- *Indians
- *Indians (the other kind)
- *Indians (some hypothetical third kind)
- *Asians
- *Weeaboos
- *Eskimos
- *Esquimaux
- *First Nationals
- *Second Nationals
- *The Washington Nationals

- *Mets fans
- *Red Sox fans
- *People who discuss mythology in Boston accents
- *People from the South (of any point)
- *Arabs
- *A-rabs
- *Muslims
- *Islams (these four are all things I have overheard people be called in airports)
- *Puerto Ricans
- *Cubans
- *Hispaniolians
- *Caribe
- *Arawaks
- *Marowaks
- *Fighting-types
- *Anything beyond the first 150 (this might be an honest hatred)
- *Israelis
- *Palestinians
- *Levantines
- *Holy Landers
- *Outremerites
- *The Druze
- *The Horde
- *Night Elves
- *High Elves
- *Half Elves
- *Quarter Elves
- *Kerrans
- *Anyone ever insulted by Lenny Bruce
- *Anyone ever insulted by Don Rickles
- *People who are not on this list

Fairly warned:

Yours in Omen love:

0dk0
www.davekov.com

Devin's Blog Posts:

Part 1

by Devin Morse

DEVIN'S BLOG POSTS: PART 1—FEBRUARY-MARCH 2009

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SELECTION, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, OF POSTS I'VE EVER MADE ON MY BLOG, [HTTP://DERVINE7.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://dervine7.blogspot.com), EXACTLY AS THEY APPEAR ON THE WEB (I.E. FULL OF MANY SPEELING AND GRAMMATICAL ERROR). I HOPE TO EVENTUALLY PUBLISH ALL OF THESE POSTS, EVERY SINGLE ONE, IN THE OMEN, IN HOPES THAT I WILL GET SOME SORT OF RESPONSE THAT WILL MOTIVATE ME TO WRITE MORE STUFF ON MY SADLY NEGLECTED BLOG. SOME OF THEM MIGHT NOT BE OF ANY INTEREST TO ANYONE, BUT THE OMEN PUBLISHES EVERYTHING AND SO, DAMMIT, WILL I. NOTE: SOME OF THESE POST ARE PRETTY OLD AND MAY OR MAY NOT REFLECT MY CURRENT VIEWS ON ANYTHING WHATSOEVER.

Old Credo (originally published February 21, 2009)

This is something I wrote up for a church "Coming of Age" project about a year ago. Some of the stuff still holds, some of it doesn't, but I thought it would make a good intro to this adventure in blogging:

I believe that nothing can be known with absolute certainty. I am a skeptic and aknowledge that everything I know is known only through my senses and my opinions, which may be deceiving me.

I call myself an "Athgnostic", sort of a cross between an agnostic and an atheist. I don't, in my heart, believe in god and, more and more, I don't feel a desire for god, which is how I am an Atheist. However, I intellectually acknowledge room, and quite a lot room, in fact, for doubt about gods non-existence, which is how I am an agnostic. But I don't believe or want there to be one.

I'm doubting more and more the existence of an afterlife, not only because of evidence (which is ambiguous on both sides of the debate), but also because I am wondering whether there even needs to be one. As I believe Buddha said, and Hume definitely said (as long as I trust my philosophy textbook), and that I first came across in a book by Richard Dawkins, we are not the same person as we were, say, 10 years ago, especially someone like me who is 15 and ten years ago was 5. So then, in a way, who we were 10 years ago is dead, and our biological death is only the next step in that cycle of change.

I believe in a spirituality based science. Science can satisfy the spiritual need. Imagine: everything we know was once compressed into a dense point of matter; everything was once indistuingishable from everything else, was once all one and the same. The theory of evolution says that all creatured evolved from a common

ancestor. We are attempting to find the “theory of everything”. That is what science continues, over and over, to discover: that everything, if one searches hard enough, eventually reduces to one substance, ancestor, principle. Everything is, in a sense, one, and in, to me, a much more majestic sense than having all been created by one Judeo-Christian god 6,000 years ago, or any other god. At any other time. I believe this furnishes a sense of empathy towards all other things and people, and a realization that we are no more important, ultimately, than anything else. The human race, if it wants to be important, has to make itself important, and the best and most reliable way that we can insure that we will have the opportunity to do so is by protecting our own existence, and, because of the SCIENTIFIC laws of nature, in order to protect our own existence we must protect the existence of what is around us.

I believe the best way to do so that we know of so far is through Utilitarian ethics, the belief, as I interpret it for my own, that what is right is what causes the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number of beings, what is wrong is what does the opposite. Sometimes we must cause immediate pain, sometimes great, in order to reach this goal. I believe in the golden rule.

I believe that this eliminates the need for blame or the concept of evil. I think what we consider evil (and also what we consider good) is only a combination of people’s disposition and upbringing. Instead of people being evil, they could be considered harmful in the Utilitarian sense of causing pain, and therefore not punished for being evil, but worked with (sometimes including punishment) to hopefully make them, not only less harmful, but hopefully beneficial.

I believe that it is my purpose in life to make and help people examine their own beliefs because I cannot prove that their beliefs are true or false, but I can show with certainty that they are self-contradictory. My hope, that I will never fulfill because I am human, is that I can learn not to care what people believe as long as their beliefs are self-consistent and aren’t detrimental to an application of Utilitarianism.

I also think it is my purpose to be a UU evangelist. I mean evangelist in the literal sense of the word, in that

I want to be someone who spreads the message of UU, and draws people to it. Actually, to be honest, my goal is to become rich and famous so everyone knows about me and, knowing I’m UU, become UU themselves. My hope is to do this through music, film, and other art, and possibly books explaining UU. I do believe that it is the religion that best suits me and that, at the risk of tooting UU’s horn, if more people were UU or followed its ideals (I say ideals instead of principles because the principles, in my opinion, are imperfect and secondary), the world would be a better place

Cultural Relativism (originally published February 24, 2009)

First, let me specify that, when talking about cultural relativism, I am specifically referring to morality.

Now, it is difficult for me to argue against cultural relativism, since being an agnostic/atheist I do not have an easy way to apply some sort of cultural standard in it's place. I will, however, try to argue for my own personal standard shortly.

First, the simplest problem. This is the most obvious problem that pretty much everyone who thinks about such things seems to have thought about: if all cultural viewpoints are equally valid, what about those viewpoints that deny the validity of other viewpoints? What about the viewpoints that say that cultural relativism itself is incorrect? It seems to me that the very assertion of relativism is self-contradicting.

This is not the gravest problem I see with cultural relativism, though. A greater problem is: how do we define a culture? For instance, if we say that political repression in China should be accepted because it's their culture, why are we then excluding from our definition of that culture those citizens that argue against repression? Or that in some countries women are considered inferior, and we should accept that as a cultural value, why do we exclude the women who try to break free? (These statements are hinting at my proposed cultural standard, by the way...) So far we've considered situations where the minority of a culture is ignored; we can also consider the opposite case, where a minority or slim majority is considered to represent a culture. For

instance, does political repression in China, in fact, represent the majority culture, or is it the culture of those who rule? And where does one culture end and another begin? What about sub-cultures? And finally, what if one culture's values entail the destruction/repression of another culture, aka Nazi Germany, or the slave-owning South. Do we allow this to go on? These are important questions to consider if we are going to making judgments based on the concept of cultural relativism.

What, then, is the alternative? As I mentioned, one of the difficulties of cultural relativism is where one draws borders between cultures. Is there some level where a line can be clearly drawn? The clearest line that can be drawn is around individuals. I believe that the fundamental standard we can apply to cultures is the degree to which they respect individual rights (which I will enumerate my concept of in a future post). (Say hello to my civil libertarian tendencies!) Now, if an individual chooses to hand over their individual rights, that is their prerogative, but one right must then still remain: the right of choice. Individuals must be able to freely choose to associate and follow a culture. If they choose to be a part of a repressive culture, that's fine, but they cannot be allowed to then insist that others also do so.

This also means that there must be one more standard: information and ideas must be freely available within the culture, since the right to choose is useless and pointless if there are no choices. And I personally believe, but this is getting into much more difficult territory, that children in particular must be given as many choices and ideas as possible, since it's in childhood that one identifies with particular cultures and values.

Old FaceBook Note: My crankpot theory (originally published March 5, 2009)

Terrible quality, but whatever; it's fun:

I was going to write a note with a list of crankpot scientific theories i had about the universe, but then something awesome happened: I got my Scientific American and it had an article about a new theory that's remarkable similar to mine. So this was my crankpot theory: that the ultimate theory of everything could have something to do with fractals. If you don't know what fractals are, look them up: they're awesome and also very pretty. Basically, a fractal is a geometrical object that looks the same no matter how far you zoom in on it.

A fractal.

My reasons for coming up with this theory: 1: Fractals are cool 2: Fractals are EVERYWHERE!!! For instance, mountains are like fractals: if you zoom in on a mountain, you get rocks; if you zoom in on rocks, they look like mountains. Broccoli is also like this (each little sprig [if that's what you call pieces of broccoli] looks like the entire broccoli). As are rivers (you have the big river with little rivers splitting off from it, which have little rivers splitting off from them, etc.). Things that appear everywhere are good candidates for unified theories, at least in my opinion.

Broccoli that resembles a fractal.

3: My impression is that one of the problems with coming up with a quantum theory of gravity is that relativistic spacetime is smooth while in quantum physics space is rough. This made me think of the Koch Snowflake (which you can also look up), which is made up of a bunch of little jagged peices that create what appears to be a smooth line.

A Koch Snowflake.

4: Fractals do wonky things to the concept of dimensions. Since all the other hopeful ultimate theories do weird things to dimensions, this seemed like a good reason. Now none of these reasons seems to be the reason that fractals show up in the theory that Scientific American wrote about (which I won't elaborate on), but it's still cool when it seems someone else who is probably smarter than you is actually working on a similar idea to something you thought up.



HATE CORPORATE GREED?



DON'T DRINK BOTTLED WATER!

Think about it. Why should you pay for water?

It rains down from the sky.

It's delivered to us, clean and free, via the tap.

Why did people start buying bottled water in the first place?

Because the beverage corporations made bottled water look
pure, delicious, and healthy.

While portraying tap as hazardous.

It's called "manufactured demand."

Works pretty well for the companies. Not so well for us.

New Leaf - Mondays 7:30pm FPH 101

SECTION LIES

Vol. 35, #6 · The Omen

Bill Williams Lived IN a Normal House. It WAS a Blue House with white trim. This Normal House sat on top of a hill. Bill Had a Job He went to every Day except weekends. ON Mondays He Played cards with a few friends, and on Thursday He went to the store. He would buy his lunches for the week, Ham, cheese, bread, or turkey, mustard, chips Things of that nature. He'd buy his dinners steaks, A roast, a chicken maybe Pasta, or tacos, AND ~~was~~ one in a Blue moon He'd buy Pie. Well this was one of those times. "Mother Fucker I'm gotta buy a pie. A Fucking apple pie. I'm gonna buy Ice cream, No Vanilla Ice cream to top that cock sucker. I'm going to get up Saturday put that pie in the oven, Jerk off to Bondage Porn, take a shower and eat Fucking Pie and Ice cream all ~~the~~ Fucking Day" Saturday came Bill got up put the pie in the oven, went to the computer found an extra filthy site and took care of himself then showered. He took the Pie out of the oven and cut a Big piece, Ice cream on top. Just then Thousands of feet above his head a piece of Ice became dislodged from a plane. Not Regular Ice But that special plane Ice, you know Poopy Ice. Well that Poopy Ice came falling straight through the roof of Bills ~~the~~ Normal Blue House with white trim on a Hill and Killed Him.

Kerin TORO
"Eh Janitor
Schmidt

The morel is
masterbating to Filthy things
on the Internet won't
kill you. It's the Fucking
Pie.



SECTION HATE

Generate Your Own Controversy (An Interactive Article)

by Greg Larsen

The following space has been left intentionally blank. Please use it to write a piece that offends you. Feel free to blame the above-listed author for the content that you have produced. Don't forget to write in a snappy title.

[illegible]

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

On the lack of response

by David Warshow

Dear Hampshire,

Given recent events, which now will be two issues ago, I was expecting the latest issue of The Omen to be thick and meaty with heartfelt discourse, or at least angry letters. Sadly there were only two responses, first from The Omen editor, explaining The Omen's publication policy, and second a dry rehash of the internet meme "Pics or it didn't happen", which given (directory.hampshire.edu) was at best a dry chuckle.

Come on HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE you can do BETTER! If you can jump on a table and scream and call your mom and hold workshops and meetings and graffiti buildings, ONE OF YOU who disagreed with the article could have taken the time to write a response? Or are you too cowardly to put your name on the permanent record? Or maybe it's just, that when you sat down to type out your thoughts and cooled you OMG-ACTIVE-ANTI-RACISM-MULTI-CULTURAL-CRITICAL-INQUIRY jets, you realized that the article really wasn't the "Hate Speech" you made it out to be. I quote from the original article:

Now, I'm sure we all have those moments where we read or hear or are unfortunate to stumble upon something that a) makes us want to bang our heads repeatedly against a wall while screaming 'WHY, GOD? WHY?' and b) fills us with so much rage that you just hope that maybe the apocalypse will come early and destroy the world in a giant ball of flame so you don't have to put up with this shit anymore....

...I could have just turned around and left.

But no. Such things are like train wrecks. They're gruesome, but you can't help but move closer to get a better look at just how that conductor's head did

a complete 180. See, Pia found a website of "ghetto" baby names.

Because just looking at a lot of black people in the world, it isn't already obvious that we can be very creative when it comes to naming children. And by creative, I mean

WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU PEOPLE SMOKING?! WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO BREED?! Now, there's a website completely dedicated to such creativity....

At first read, this may seem like hate speech. But read it again. Lauren did not say she was going to go out and restart the eugenics movement. She expressed an example of frustrations we have all had, at one time or another, with a social/political/ethnic/racial group we belong to. For instance, as an American, when I hear that another American is planning on burning a religious text, or that our (former) President has decided that the favorite fast food of America is "Freedom Fries", or when FOX wins a lawsuit, that they can fire an employee for refusing to LIE on international news and still hold the title "Fair and Balanced". I WANT TO SMASH MY FACE INTO A DESK, I want to find those people and yell and then, they are clearly DERANGED or just GREEDY, I cannot feel compassion for them, and I would like to imagine it would be better if none of them could have children. But I'm not going to go and try and castrate them. I'm going to write a letter to The Omen expressing my self. Or rant on my facebook feed, or call a radio show.

Back to the point.

COME ON HAMPSHIRE, to rip off Rob: submit it to The Omen or it didn't happen.

xoxo David Warshow



I HATE CONSERVATIVES!!!!!!!!!!!!1111

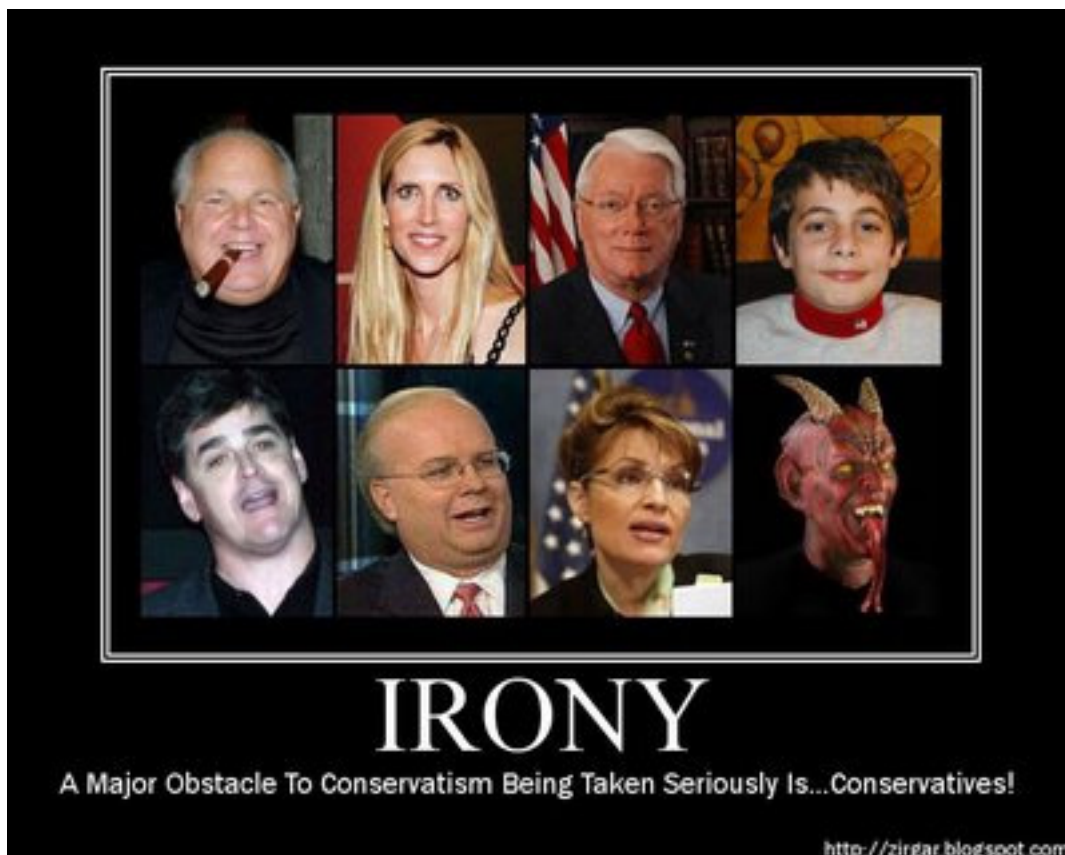
by Devin Morse

And before the 3 conservatives on campus come after me and my hate speech, let me just say that I am, in fact...well, actually, I'm liberal. I've probably been mistaken for a conservative, but no two ways about it: I'm liberal! And I hate conservatives!

Well, OK. Not really "hate". There are a lot of nice, reasonable people with conservative views. But there are some conservatives out there whose disappearance from the face of the earth wouldn't exactly make me sad. Some conservatives with points of view I consider downright immoral.

(And since this article is obviously a belated response to the "I HATE BLACK PEOPLE" article, let me just say that I definitely think supporting torture is way worse than giving your kid's funny names: Track? Trig? WHO LET SARAH PALIN BREED??)

I especially hate how they give American's a bad name so that other countries all assume that we're gun-toting bible-thumping racists dying from the lack of a proper health care system. And you know what, conservatives: just because I don't want "God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, just because I don't think America is the city on the hill for all others to follow, doesn't mean I hate America. What, I'm not American, I'm "acting European", just because I want adequate services for all our citizens? You guys make it SO hard for me to respect my country!



I SUPPORT MULTI NATIONAL CORPORATIONS BY SMOKING CIGARETTES



* PAID FOR BY YOUR OWN HYPOCRISY

Contact Health Services x5458
for help quitting or cutting back